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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the Official Action of June 2, 2005. In order to advance the present application to allowance, Claims 1-9 have been canceled, and independent Claims 10 and 16 have been amended to clarify the patentable distinctions over U.S. Patent 6,519,479 to Garudadri et al. taken alone or in combination with U.S. Patent 6,393,304 to Meche. Moreover, new Claims 21-28 have been added. The pending claims are patentable for at least the reasons that now will be described.

Independent Claim 10 Is Patentable Over Garudadri et al. In View of Meche

Independent Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Garudadri et al. in view of Meche. Claim 10 has been amended to more specifically recite that a voice activated dialing (VAD) directory associated with an originator of a call is updated with a call destination number by performing the following:

- asking the originator whether to update the VAD directory at the end of a call to the call destination number;
- receiving an instruction to update the VAD directory in response to the asking;
- receiving from the originator a VAD command for the call destination number after receiving the instruction; and
- updating the VAD directory with an update including the VAD command associated with the call destination number.

Support for the amendments to Claim 10 may be found, for example, at Blocks 46 and 48 of Figure 2, and the accompanying description, of the present application.

Accordingly, at the end of telephone call, the originator is asked whether to update the VAD directory, and an instruction is received in response to the asking. A VAD command is then received from the originator, and the VAD directory is updated. In sharp contrast, Garudadri et al. does not ask an originator whether to update a VAD directory at the end of a call. Rather, a VAD directory is updated upon user initiation, by the power up or power down of the device, or in response to a user-specified timer. See Garudadri et al. Column 9, lines 36-46:

In one embodiment the agent prompts a user process in accordance with the algorithm steps illustrated in the flow chart of FIG. 7A. In step 600 the agent enters a subroutine for prompting a user process. The user prompt process may have been initiated by the user, or the by power up and/or power down of the VR device (if specified by the user), or in

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response to a user-specified timer. The agent then proceeds to step 602. In step 602 the agent sets the number of entries in the prompt list, i.e., the size of the prompt list, equal to N. The agent then proceeds to step 604.

Also see, for example, Garudadri et al. Figure 8, Blocks 702, 708 and 714, which provide detailed processing for adding a prompt list to a phone book during power up, during power down and at specific intervals, respectively. The secondary reference, Meche, relates to methods for enabling a user of a mobile terminal to assign spoken words to selected keys of the keypad of the mobile terminal, thereby identifying the selected keys with the spoken words, and also appears to be silent on the recitations of Claim 10, described above.

Embodiments of the invention as recited in Claim 10 can allow a user to update a VAD directory at the end of a call, while a call is fresh in the user's mind, so that the user may effectively determine whether or not the user wishes the VAD directory to be updated. Accordingly, for at least the reasons described above, Claim 10 is patentable over Garudadri et al. in view of Meche.

Independent Claim 16 Is Patentable Over Garudadri et al.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) in view of Garudadri et al. Claim 16 has been extensively amended to clarify that a VAD directory is updated by performing the following:

- receiving an instruction to update the VAD directory by reference to at least one characteristic of a call destination number other than the call destination number itself;

- determining a call destination number to be included as part of an update to the VAD directory based upon the at least one characteristic of the call destination number other than the call destination number itself;

- recording a VAD command for the call destination number that was determined; and

- updating the VAD directory with the update including the VAD command associated with the call designation number that was determined.

Thus, an instruction to update the VAD directory is received by reference to at least one characteristic of the call destination number other than the call destination number itself, and a separate determination is made of the call destination number based on the at least one characteristic other than the number itself. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, at Block 44 of Figure 2 and the associated description thereof in the specification.

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Applicants respectfully submit that Garudadri et al. does not appear to describe or suggest using at least one characteristic of a call destination number other than the call destination number itself as a basis for determining a call destination number to be included as part of an update to a VAD directory. Accordingly, Claim 16 is patentable over Garudadri et al.

Many Of The Dependent Claims Are Separately Patentable

The dependent claims are patentable at least per the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend. Moreover, many of the dependent claims are separately patentable.

For example, dependent Claim 11 recites that asking the originator whether to update the VAD directory at the end of a call comprises sending a data message to the originator at the end of the call. Thus, at the end of a telephone call, the originator may be prompted by a data message. These recitations do not appear to be described or suggested in Garudadri et al.

Moreover, Claim 17 provides one example of the characteristic of the call destination number other than the call destination number itself, i.e. an identification of the last number dialed by the customer. Identification by a customer of a call destination number to be included in a VAD directory by identifying the last number dialed by the customer is not described or suggested in Garudadri et al.

Claim 19 recites that the at least one characteristic of the call destination number other than the call destination number itself is a call log associated with the customer. Garudadri et al. does not appear to describe identification of a call log by an originator to indicate a number to be updated in a VAD directory.

New Claims 21 and 22 recite that multiple VAD directories are updated. Support for these claims may be found, for example, at Block 54 of Figure 2, and the associated description in the present application. The updating of multiple VAD directories does not appear to be described or suggested in the cited references.

New Claim 23 also is independently patentable. In particular, Claim 23 recites that the characteristic of the call destination number is obtained by "obtaining the call destination number from a directory that is associated with a communications network based on the name". Support for these recitations may be found, for example, at Page 19 of the present

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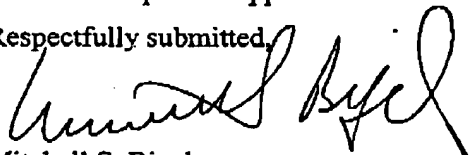
application. Again the cited references do not appear to describe or suggest using a name and obtaining an associated number from a directory. Accordingly, Claim 23 is independently patentable.

New Claims 24-28 are system analogs of Claims 10 and 16, and are patentable for at least the reasons that were described above in connection therewith. New Claim 26 is analogous to Claim 10 from the perspective of the originator device and is patentable for at least the reasons that were described in connection with Claim 10. New Claims 27 and 28 are analogs of dependent Claims 11 and 24 and are patentable for at least the reasons that were described above in connection therewith.

Conclusion

Applicants again appreciate the thorough examination of the present application. In order to advance the application to allowance, Applicants have now canceled one set of claims and have extensively amended the remaining two independent claims. Applicants have now shown that the independent claims and many of the dependent claims are patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

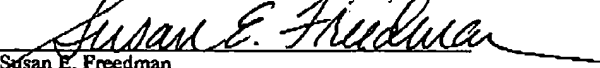


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Susan E. Freedman
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